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Wilson and Christe (ERC) and Sheehy and Boatz, "Synthesis of Catenated Polynitrogen Compounds"  
Presentation at HEDM Conference  
Poster Session

(Public Release)

# SYNTHESIS OF CATENATED POLYNITROGEN COMPOUNDS

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## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- SYNTHESIS OF NOVEL MONOPROPELLANTS CONSISTING OF HIGHLY  
ENDOTHERMIC POLYINITROGEN ALLOTROPES
- USE TECHNIQUES DEVELOPED IN SYNTHESIS OF OTHER ENERGETIC MATERIALS  
TO PURSUE CATENATED RATHER THAN POLYCYCLIC POLYINITROGEN

### COMPOUNDS

RING CLOSURE REACTIONS FOR POLYCYCLIC COMPOUNDS ARE

UNKNOWN AND DIFFICULT TO ENVISION

IN CONTRAST, ONE CAN CONCEIVE OF REACTIONS THAT MIGHT LEAD

TO CATENATED COMPOUNDS

- USE THEORY AND CALCULATIONS TO GUIDE SYNTHESIS EFFORTS

- HIGH-RISK, HIGH-PAYOFF PROGRAM

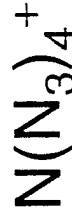
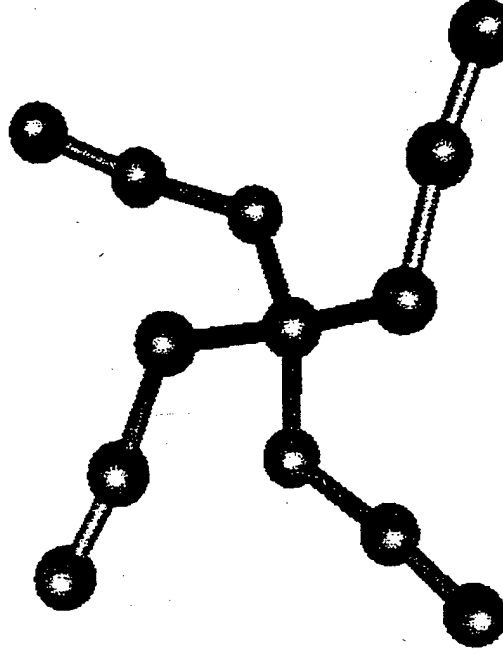
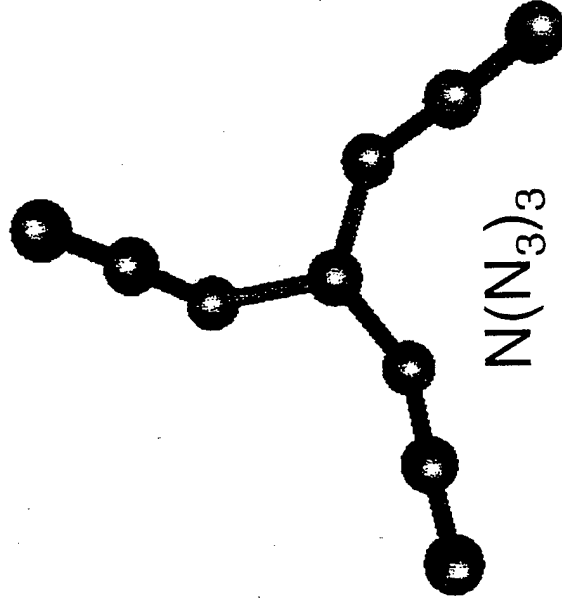
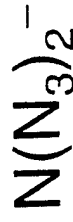
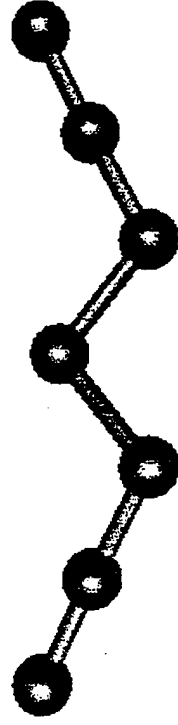
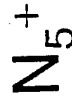
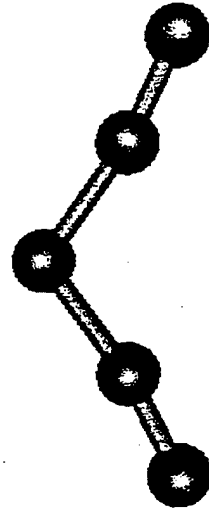
PROPOSED COMPOUNDS ARE EXTREMELY ENERGETIC

STABILITY OF ENERGETIC MATERIALS TYPICALLY DECREASES WITH

INCREASING ENDOTHERMICITY

## CALCULATIONS ON CATENATED POLYNITROGEN SPECIES

- HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE FEASIBILITY OF



- AB INITIO CALCULATIONS SHOW THESE SPECIES TO BE VIBRATIONALLY STABLE

## STATE OF THE ART IN HOMOLEPTIC CATENATED POLYNITROGEN COMPOUNDS

- ONLY TWO COMPOUNDS KNOWN WHICH CAN BE PREPARED "IN BULK"
- $N_2$  LONG KNOWN, BUT FIRST ISOLATED IN PURE FORM ONLY IN 1772 INDEPENDENTLY BY

RUTHERFORD

SCHEELE

CAVENDISH

AZIDE,  $N_3^-$ , DISCOVERED IN 1890 BY

CURTIS

- THE ABSENCE OF ANY OTHER SUCH COMPOUND IS A TESTIMONY TO THE PROBLEMS THAT CAN BE EXPECTED FOR THE SYNTHESIS OF NEW POLYNITROGEN COMPOUNDS

## **SYNERGISM OF THEORY AND SYNTHESIS**

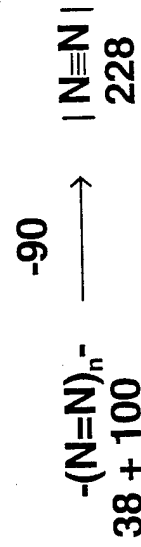
- **AFRL HAS EXCELLENT CAPABILITIES IN BOTH THEORY AND SYNTHESIS**  
**THANKS TO AFOSR PROGRAM**
- **QUANTUM-CHEMICAL CALCULATIONS ARE USED TO IDENTIFY PROMISING**  
**CANDIDATES AND HELP CHARACTERIZE NEW COMPOUNDS**  
**INFRARED SPECTRA, RAMAN SPECTRA, AND NMR CHEMICAL SHIFTS**  
**DECOMPOSITION PATHWAYS AND ENERGY BARRIERS**  
**THERMODYNAMIC PROPERTIES**  
**PROPELLANT SPECIFIC IMPULSE**
- **GENERAL APPROACH TO SYNTHESIS OF PROMISING CANDIDATES**  
**SYNTHESIZE COMPOUNDS ON A VERY SMALL SCALE**  
**IDENTIFY AND CHARACTERIZE THE NEW COMPOUNDS**  
**GET SENSITIVITY DATA AND PHYSICAL PROPERTIES**  
**SCALE UP THE SYNTHESIS OF VIABLE NEW MATERIALS**

## PROBLEMS WITH SYNTHESIS OF POLYNITROGEN HEDM

- ALL THE ENERGY MUST COME FROM ENDOTHERMICITY WHICH MAKES POLYNITROGEN HEDM EXTREMELY DANGEROUS
- BASIS FOR HIGH ENERGY CONTENT ARE THE LARGE DIFFERENCES IN BOND

### ENERGIES FOR N-N BONDS

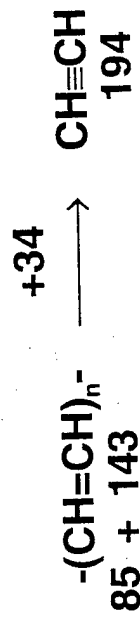
N-N	38 kcal/mol
N=N	100 kcal/mol
N≡N	228 kcal/mol



EXCEPTIONS: N<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>

STABLE MONOMERS  
UNSTABLE POLYMERS

C-C	85 kcal/mol
C=C	143 kcal/mol
C≡C	194 kcal/mol



NORMAL CASE:

STABLE POLYMERS  
UNSTABLE MONOMERS



## GENERAL CONCEPT FOR POLYNITROGEN HEDM SYNTHESIS

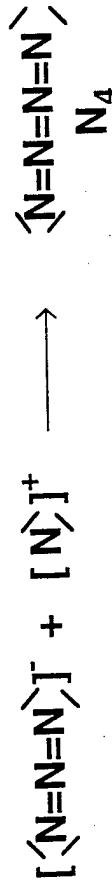
- ALL POLYNITROGEN COMPOUNDS ARE UNSTABLE WITH RESPECT TO  $N_2$
- ACTIVATION ENERGY BARRIER TOWARD  $N_2$  ELIMINATION IS DETERMINED BY THE WEAKEST BOND IN POLYNITROGEN COMPOUND
- THE BARRIER AND METASTABILITY OF POLYNITROGEN COMPOUNDS MUST BE INCREASED BY SUITABLE RESONANCE STRUCTURES



- DOUBLE BOND CHARACTER OF N-N BONDS IN AZIDE ION EXPLAINS ITS EXCEPTIONAL STABILITY
- HOW CAN THIS STABILIZATION EFFECT BE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF?

## EXPANSION OF THE AZIDE STRUCTURE

- ADDITION OF  $[\text{N}]^+$  UNITS TO  $\text{N}_3^-$



- HOWEVER, THEORETICAL CALCULATIONS SHOW THAT  $\text{D}_{\infty h} \text{N}_4$  IS NOT STABLE



NEIGHBORING CHARGES OF EQUAL SIGN MUST BE AVOIDED

- NO PLAUSIBLE RESONANCE STRUCTURES CAN BE WRITTEN FOR  $\text{N}_4$  WHICH RETAIN DOUBLE BOND CHARACTER WHILE AVOIDING NEIGHBORING CHARGES OF EQUAL SIGN

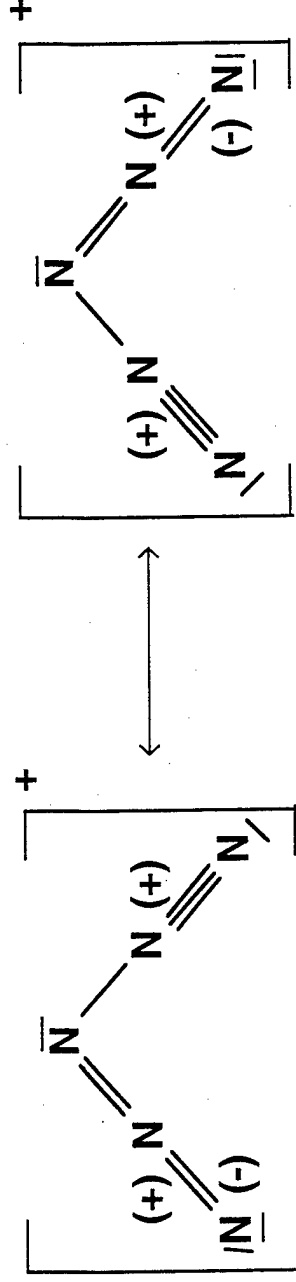
## EXPANSION OF THE AZIDE STRUCTURE TO $N_5^+$

- THE SAME PROBLEM EXISTS FOR  $N_5^+$  WITH NEIGHBORING POSITIVE CHARGES



- RESONANCE STRUCTURES, HOWEVER, CAN BE WRITTEN WHICH AVOID THIS

### PROBLEM



- AB INITIO CALCULATIONS (CCSD(T) AND B3LYP) CONFIRM THE STABILITY OF THIS

### $C_{2v}$ STRUCTURE

## SELECTION OF SUITABLE STARTING MATERIALS FOR $N_5^+$ SYNTHESIS

- REQUIREMENTS

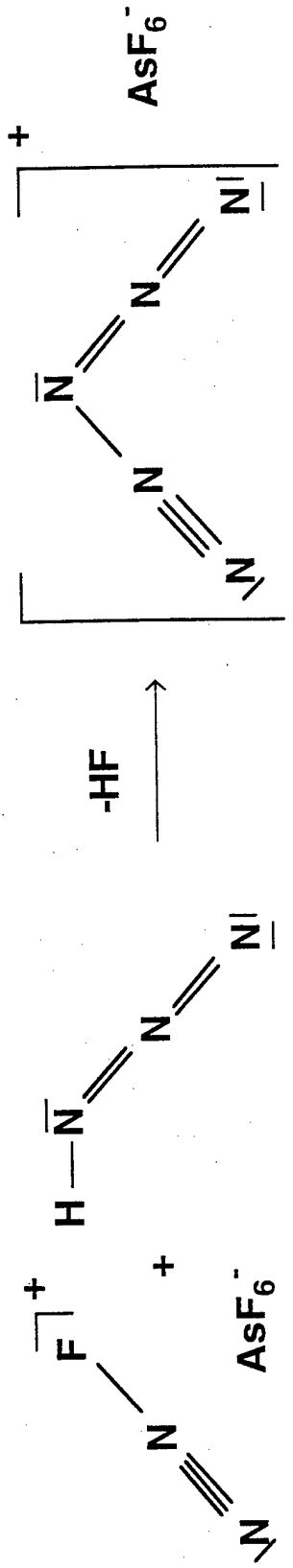
STARTING FRAGMENTS MUST HAVE ALREADY BUILT IN WEAKENED BONDS

MUST HAVE A FORMAL POSITIVE CHARGE (IP OF  $N_2 = 359$  kcal/mol)

COUPLING REACTION MUST BE EXOTHERMIC

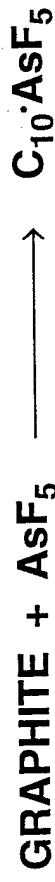
CHOICE OF SUITABLE SOLVENT (HEAT SINK, STABILIZATION, SAFETY)

- IDEAL CANDIDATE SYSTEM



## SYNTHESIS OF $N_2F^+MF_6^-$ (M = As, Sb) STARTING MATERIAL

- KNOWN SYNTHESIS



- ATTEMPTS TO SIMPLIFY  $N_2F^+MF_6^-$  SYNTHESIS WERE UNSUCCESSFUL



(VARYING TEMPERATURES AND PRESSURES)

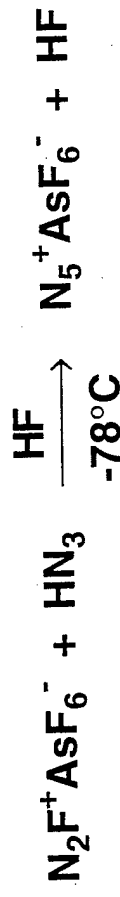
(METHOD COMPARABLE TO SUCCESSFUL SYNTHESIS OF  $\text{NF}_4^+\text{SbF}_6^-$ )



(250°C AND 150 ATM PRESSURE)

## ACTUAL SYNTHESIS OF $N_5^+AsF_6^-$

- SYSTEM WORKED AS PLANNED



HIGH YIELD

ONLY OTHER BYPRODUCT 20-40%  $H_2N_3^+AsF_6^-$

2 MMOL (0.5 G) SCALE

- PROPERTIES OF  $N_5^+AsF_6^-$

WHITE SOLID WHICH IS SPARINGLY SOLUBLE IN HF

MARGINALLY STABLE AT 22°C

HIGHLY ENERGETIC, REACTS VIOLENTLY WITH WATER AND ORGANICS

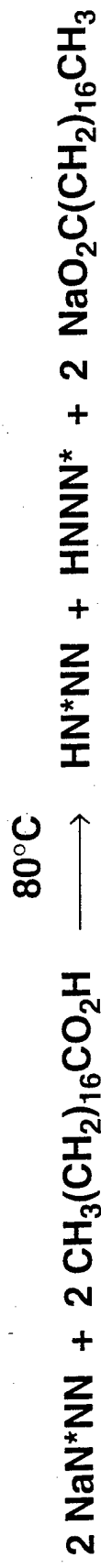
CALCULATED  $\Delta H_f^\circ N_5^+ (g) = 353 \text{ kcal/mol}$

POWERFUL OXIDIZER

1st I.P. OF  $O_2 = 288 \text{ kcal/mol}$

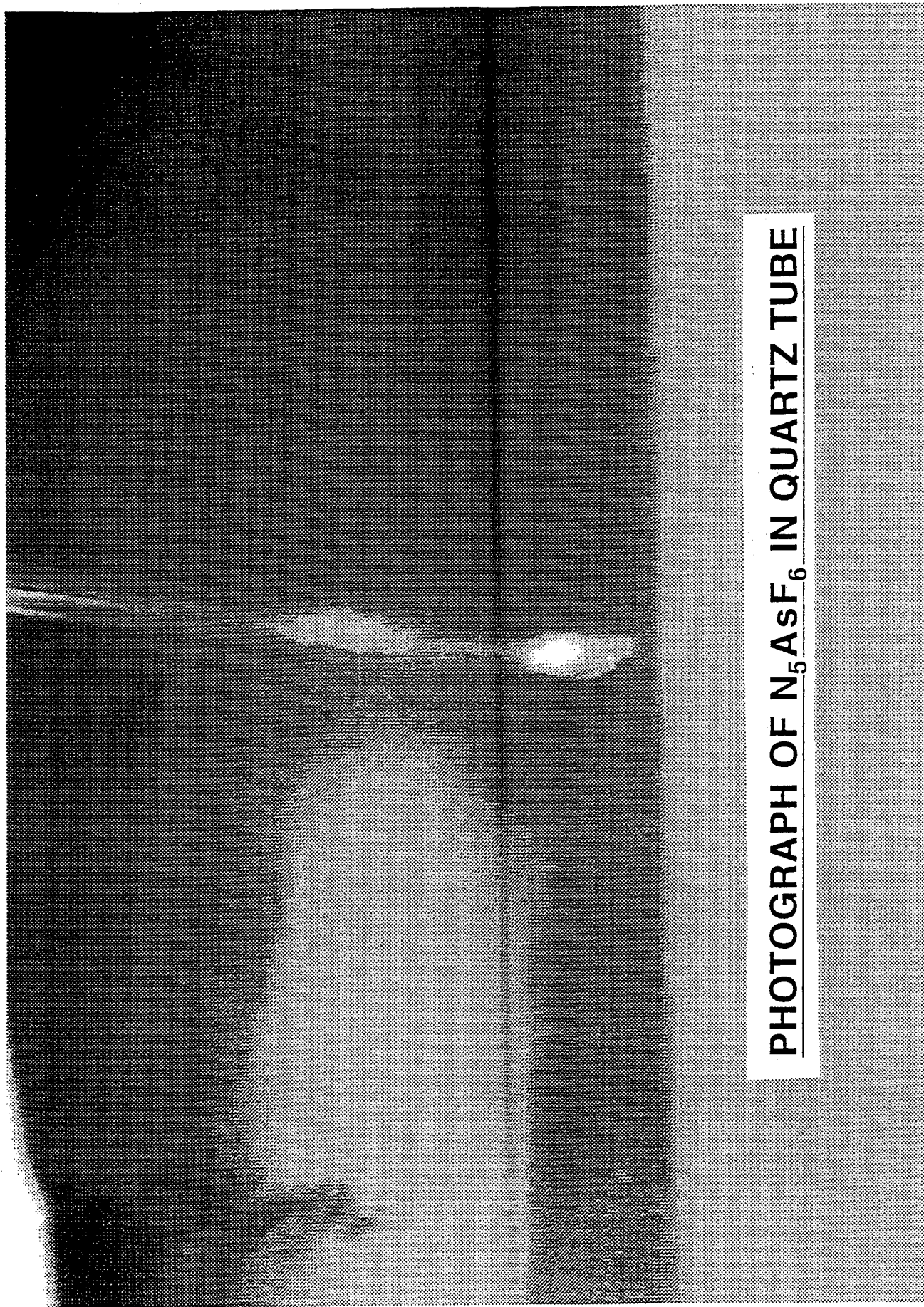
1st I.P. OF  $N_2 = 359 \text{ kcal/mol}$

## SYNTHESIS OF $^{15}\text{N}$ LABELED $\text{N}_5^+\text{AsF}_6^-$



$^{15}\text{N}$  LABELED  $\text{N}_5\text{AsF}_6$  NEEDED FOR POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF

$\text{N}_5^+$  BY SPECTROSCOPIC METHODS



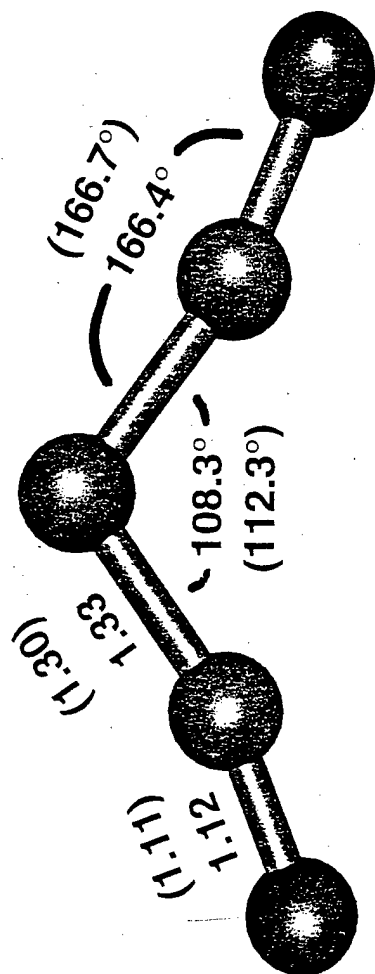
PHOTOGRAPH OF N<sub>5</sub>AsF<sub>6</sub> IN QUARTZ TUBE

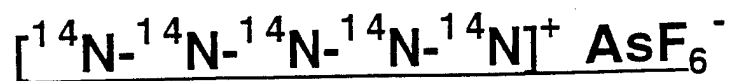


## CHARACTERIZATION OF $\text{N}_5^+ \text{AsF}_6^-$

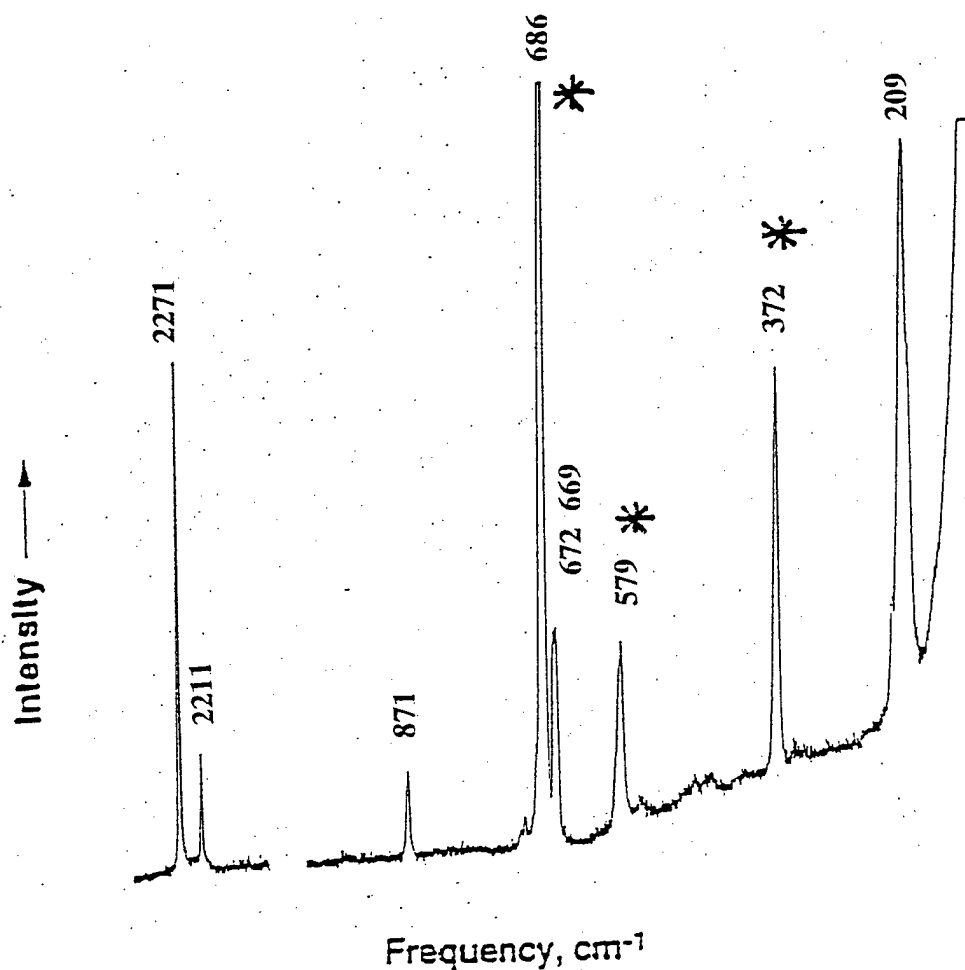
- $^{14}\text{N}$  AND  $^{15}\text{N}$  NMR SPECTRA
- LOW-TEMPERATURE RAMAN AND INFRARED SPECTRA OF NORMAL AND ISOTOPICALLY LABELED  $\text{N}_5^+$
- NORMAL COORDINATE ANALYSIS
- MASS SPECTROSCOPY
- THEORETICAL CALCULATIONS
  - OPTIMIZED GEOMETRY
  - VIBRATIONAL SPECTRA
  - ISOTOPIC SHIFTS
  - NMR SHIFTS
  - HEAT OF FORMATION

# OPTIMIZED GEOMETRIES FOR $N_5^+$ CCSD(T) (B3LYP) VALUES



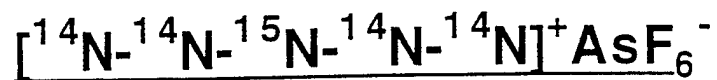
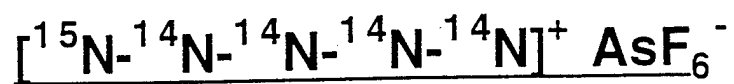


## LOW-TEMPERATURE RAMAN SPECTRUM



\* =  $\text{AsF}_6^-$

$\text{N}_5^+$	OBSD ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	CCSD(T) ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )	B3LYP ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ )
$\nu_1 (\text{A1})$	2271	2229	2336
$\nu_7 (\text{B2})$	2211	2175	2282
$\nu_2 (\text{A1})$	871	818	850
$\nu_4 (\text{A1})$	209	181	193



# LOW-TEMPERATURE RAMAN SPECTRUM

Intensity ↑

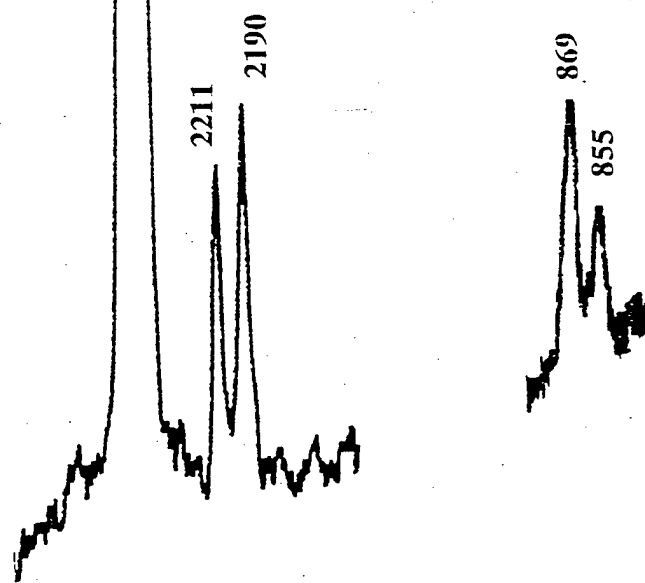
14N-15N SHIFTS (cm<sup>-1</sup>)

OBSD CALCD

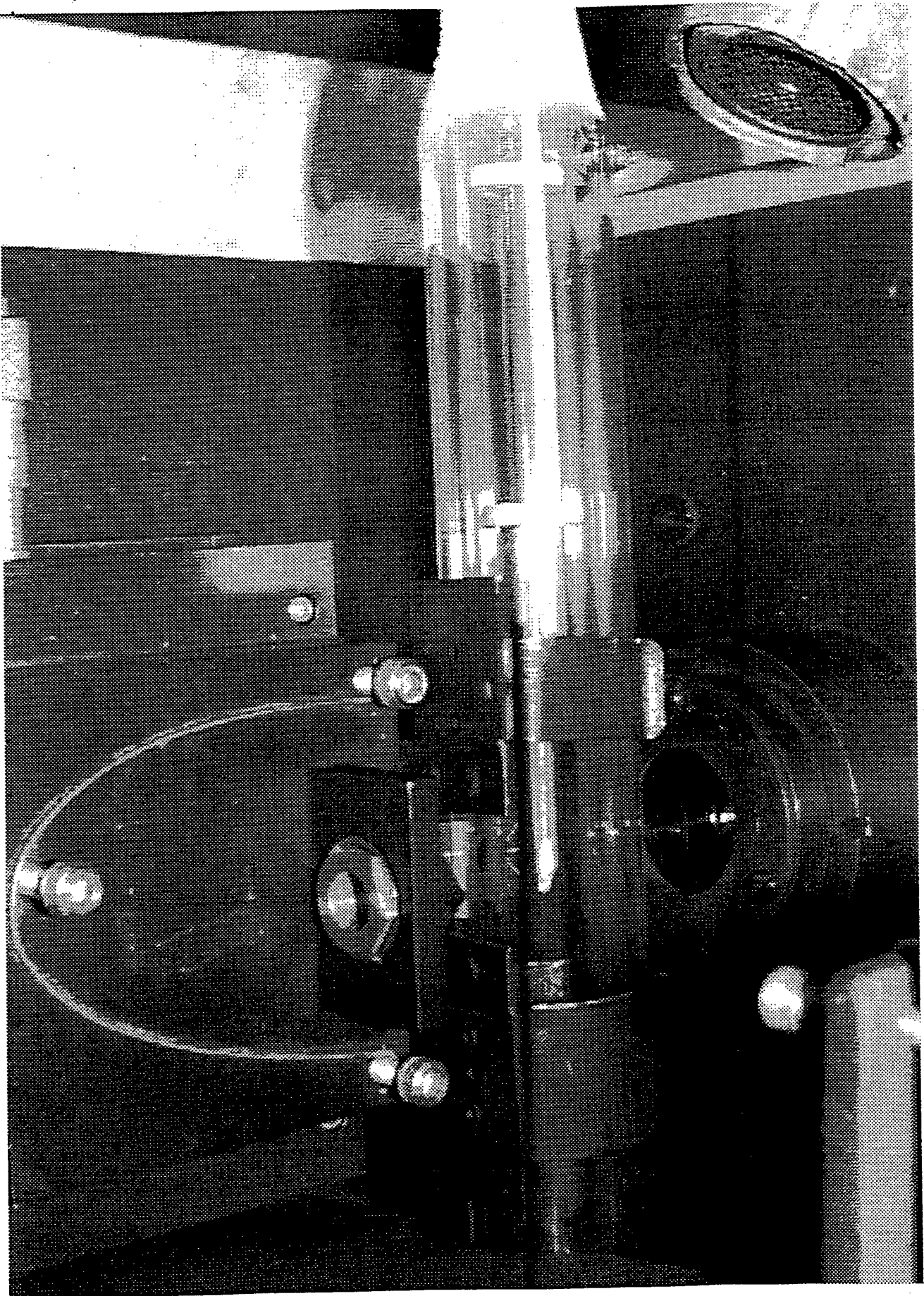
ν<sub>1</sub> 12 11.8

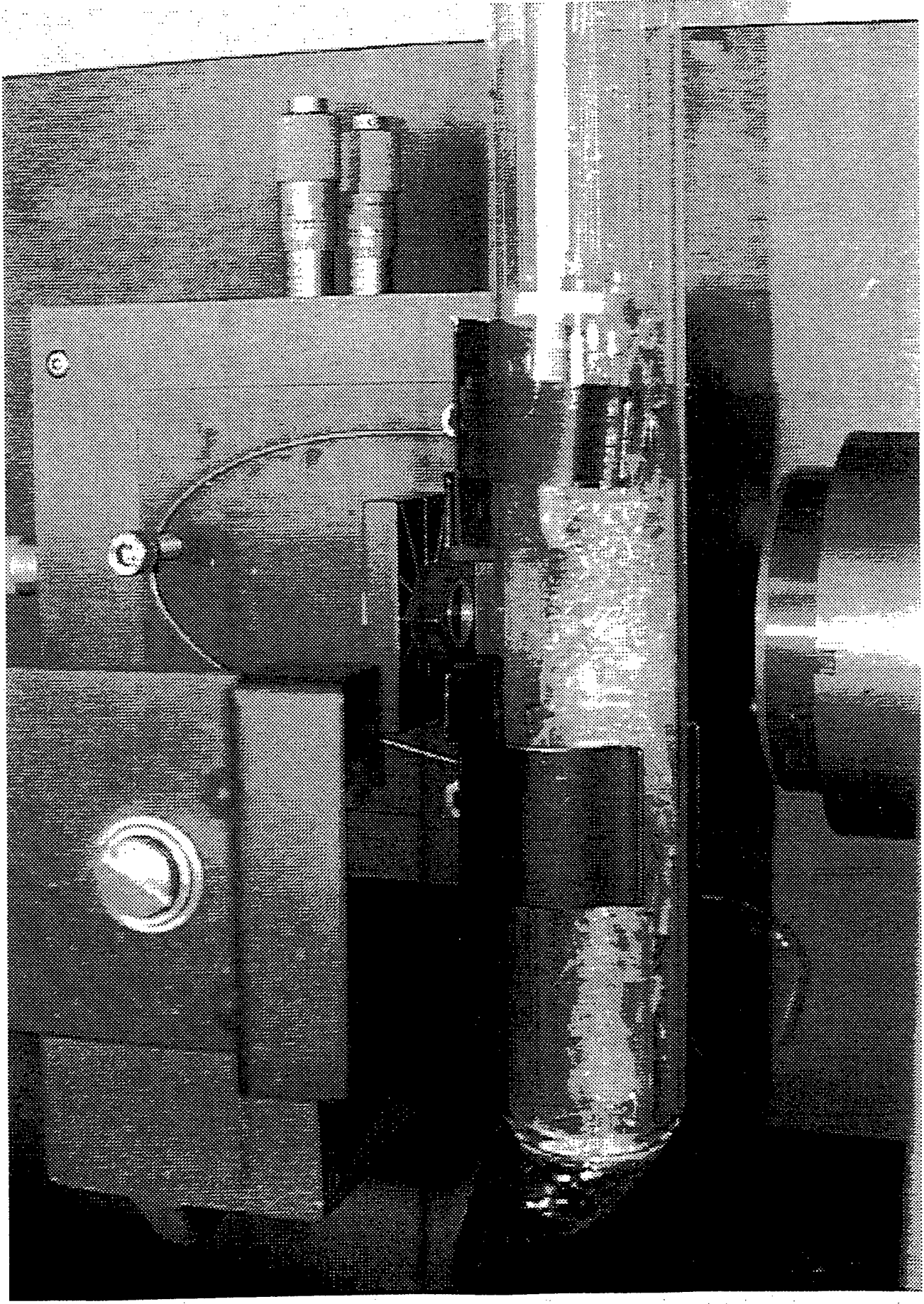
ν<sub>7</sub> 21 21.4

ν<sub>2</sub> 14 14.1

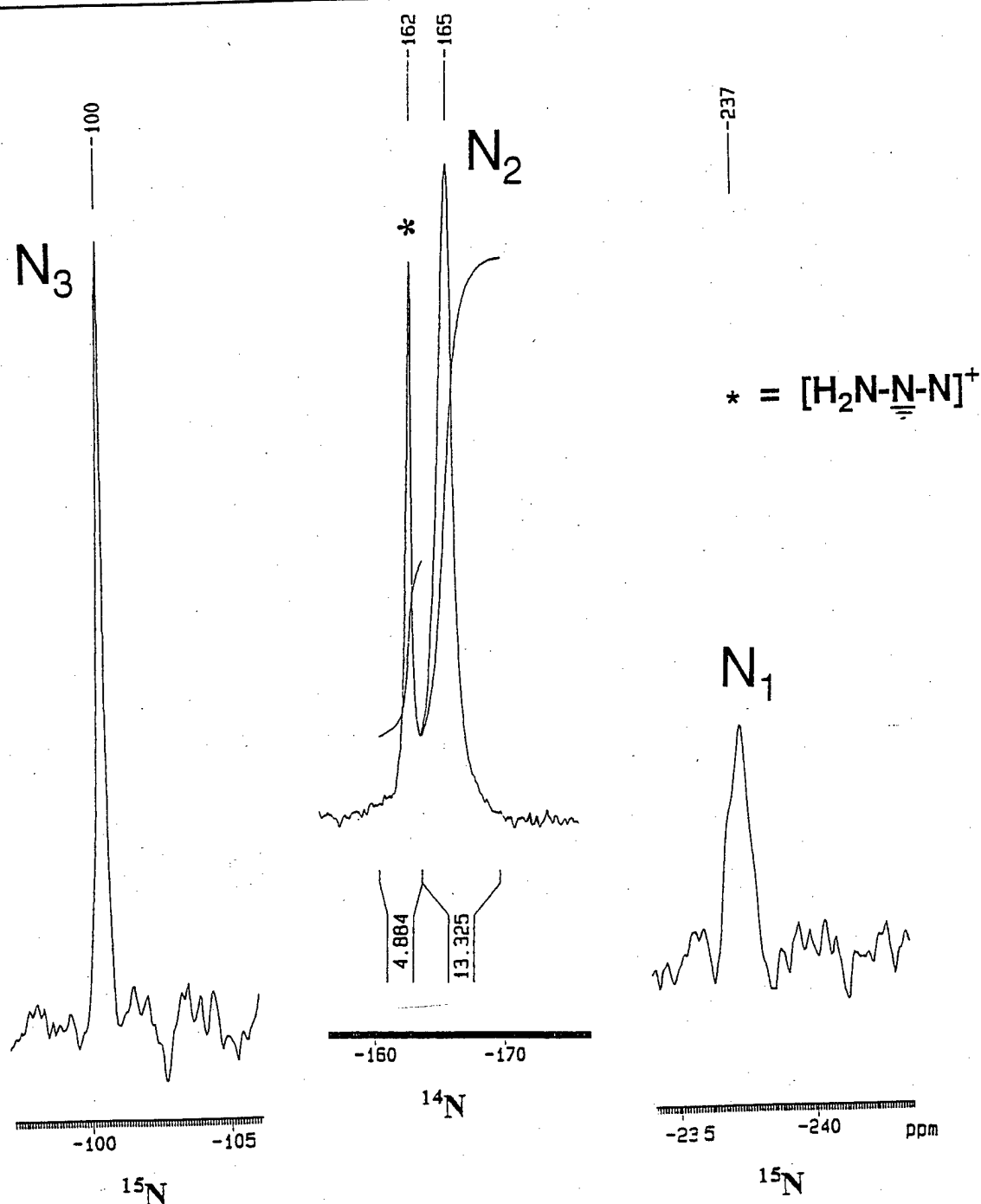


Frequency, cm<sup>-1</sup>





# NITROGEN NMR SPECTRA OF



NMR SHIFTS (ppm)

OBSD

CALCD

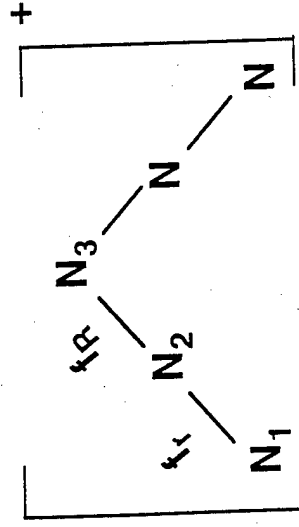
$\text{N}_1$   
 $\text{N}_2$   
 $\text{N}_3$

-237.3  
-165.3  
-100.4

-235  
-166  
-95

## FORCE FIELD ANALYSIS FOR $N_5^+$

- TWO MOST IMPORTANT FORCE CONSTANTS



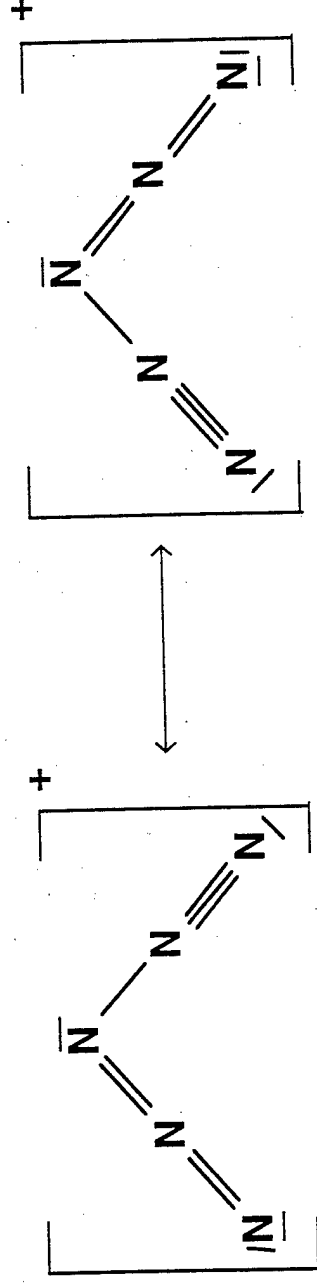
$$f_r = 20.08 \text{ mdyn/\AA}$$

$$f_R = 6.59 \text{ mdyn/\AA}$$

- TYPICAL FORCE CONSTANT VALUES FOR N-N

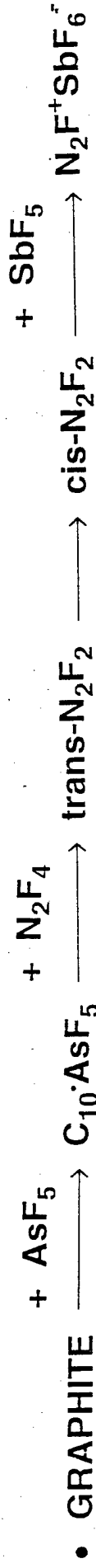
SINGLE BONDS      3.6 mdyn/\AA  
 DOUBLE BONDS      10.2 mdyn/\AA  
 TRIPLE BONDS      22.4 mdyn/\AA

- THUS  $N(2)-N(3)$  HAS BOND ORDER OF  $\sim 1.5$  AND IS RESONANCE STABILIZED AT THE EXPENSE OF  $N(1)-N(2)$





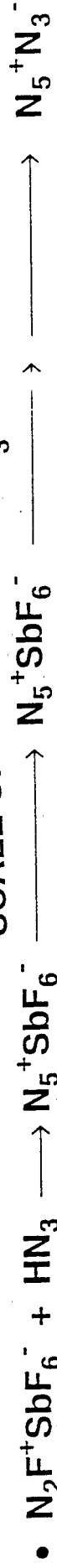
## WHAT NEXT?



(X10)

SCALE UP

+  $\text{N}_3^-$  METATHESIS



STABILITY TESTS  
SAFETY TESTS

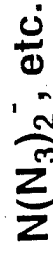
COMPATIBILITY  
TEST

MAKE A BETTER POLY-N CATION



CHARACTERIZATION  
SAFETY DATA

MAKE A LARGER POLY-N ANION



SCALE UP

PROCESS IMPROVEMENT

TESTING

PRODUCTION

## ESTIMATED ENERGY CONTENT OF $N_5^+N_3^-$

- HEAT OF FORMATION OF  $N_5^+N_3^-$

$$\Delta H_f^{298} N_5^+ = 351 \text{ kcal/mol} \quad (\text{THIS WORK})$$

$$\Delta H_f^{298} N_3^- = 43.2 \text{ kcal/mol} \quad (\text{NBS TABLES})$$

$$U_L N_5^+N_3^- \sim 130 \pm 20 \text{ kcal/mol} \quad (\text{ESTIMATE})$$

$$\Delta H_f^{298} N_5^+N_3^- (s) = 351 + 43 - 130 = 264 \pm 25 \text{ kcal/mol}$$

- ENERGY DENSITY OF  $N_5^+N_3^- (s) = 2.36 \text{ kcal/g}$

- COMPARISON OF ENERGY DENSITIES (kcal/g)

$O_3$	$C(N_3)_3^+N(NO_2)_2^-$	$HN_3$	$N_5^+N_3^-$	$H_2/O_2$
0.71	1.42	1.63	2.36	3.21

## SUMMARY

- THE FEASIBILITY OF POLYNITROGEN BASED HEDM COMPOUNDS HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED BY THE SUCCESSFUL BULK SYNTHESIS OF  $N_5^+$
- THE  $N_5^+AsF_6^-$  SALT IS OF SURPRISING STABILITY AND WAS UNAMBIGUOUSLY IDENTIFIED BY VIBRATIONAL AND NMR SPECTROSCOPY OF UNLABELED AND  $^{15}N$  LABELED  $N_5^+$  AND THEORETICAL CALCULATIONS
- THE  $N_5^+$  CATION IS THE FIRST NEW CATENATED HOMOLEPTIC POLYNITROGEN COMPOUND PREPARED IN BULK IN OVER 100 YEARS AND ONLY THE THIRD KNOWN COMPOUND OF THIS TYPE BESIDES ELEMENTAL NITROGEN AND AZIDE
- THEORETICAL CALCULATIONS PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN THE SUCCESSFUL IDENTIFICATION OF  $N_5^+$  AND DEMONSTRATE THE POWERFUL SYNERGISM OF THEORY AND SYNTHESIS

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

- DR. MARIO FAJARDO (MASS SPECTRA)
- DR. JOHN STANTON (NMR SHIFT CALCULATIONS)
- MR. ALAN KERSHAW (NITROGEN NMR SPECTRA)

**Table 1.** Observed and Calculated Nitrogen NMR Data for  $N_5^+$

	chemical shifts, <sup>a</sup> ppm				
	observed <sup>b</sup>	calculated, <sup>c</sup> CCSD(T)/QZP			
	<sup>15</sup> N	<sup>14</sup> N	N <sub>1</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>3</sub>
$[^{15}N_1 - ^{14}N_2 - ^{14}N_3 - ^{14}N_2' - ^{14}N_1']^+$	-237.3	-165.3 <sup>d</sup>	-235	-166	-95
$[^{14}N_1 - ^{14}N_2 - ^{15}N_3 - ^{14}N_2' - ^{14}N_1']^+$	-100.4				

*alignment*

(a) Chemical shifts are given relative to neat  $CH_3NO_2$  as external standard. (b) The spectra were recorded hydrogen-coupled at  $-63^\circ C$  in anhydrous HF solution which was acidified with  $AsF_5$ . (c) An empirical correction of  $-20$  ppm was applied to all calculated values, based on a comparison between the calculated and observed shifts of a number of closely related molecules and ions. (d) The other two resonances are badly exchange broadened and were not detected in the  $^{14}N$  spectrum.

**Table 2.** Low-temperature Raman and Infrared Spectra of Solid  $^{14}\text{N}_5^+ \text{AsF}_6^-$  and Their Assignments Compared to the Calculated Harmonic Frequencies of Free Gaseous  $\text{N}_5^+$

observed freq, $\text{cm}^{-1}$ (rel intens)		assignt (point group)		calcd freq <sup>d</sup> , (intens) <sup>b</sup>	
Raman	IR	$^{14}\text{N}_5^+(\text{C}_{2v})$	$\text{AsF}_6^-(\text{O}_h)$	B3LYP	CCSD(T)
-130°C	-196°C				
2271 [44]	2270 m	$\nu_1(\text{A}_1)$		2336 (22)	2229 (13) [215] <sup>c</sup>
2211 [8]	2210 s	$\nu_7(\text{B}_2)$		2282 (147)	2175 (105) [42]
	1088 s	$\nu_8(\text{B}_2)$		1167 (141)	1032 (138) [2]
871 [7]	872 w	$\nu_2(\text{A}_1)$		850 (4)	818 (0.5) [5]
	704 vs		$\nu_3(\text{F}_{1u})$		
686 [100]	680 sh		$\nu_1(\text{A}_{1g})$		
672 [17]		$\nu_3(\text{A}_1)$	or part of $\nu_1(\text{A}_{1g})$ or $\nu_3(\text{F}_{1u})$	678 (1)	644 (2) [1]
669 [18]					
579 [16]	575 w		$\nu_2(\text{E}_g)$		
		$\nu_5(\text{A}_2)$		502 (0)	475 (0) [1]
	420 sh	$\nu_6(\text{B}_1)$		424 (7)	405 (6) [0]
		$\nu_9(\text{B}_2)$		436 (0.6)	399 (1) [0.5]
	394 vs		$\nu_4(\text{F}_{1u})$		
372 [32]	380 sh		$\nu_5(\text{F}_{2g})$		
	360 sh				
209 [44]		$\nu_4(\text{A}_1)$		193 (0.5)	181 (0.3) [6]
127 [55]		lattice vibration			

(a) Using a 6-311 + G(2d) basis set. (b) IR intensities in  $\text{km/mol}$ ; Ra intensities in  $\text{\AA}^4/\text{amu}$ . (c) The Ra intensities were calculated at the RHF level.

$\text{N}_2^+$ isotope	calculated frequencies (shifts), $\text{cm}^{-1}$	observed frequencies (shifts), $\text{cm}^{-1}$
$^{14}\text{N}_2^+$	1000.0	1000.0
$^{15}\text{N}_2^+$	1000.0	1000.0

N <sub>5</sub> <sup>+</sup> Isotopomer				calculated frequencies (shifts), cm <sup>-1</sup>				observed frequencies (shifts), cm <sup>-1</sup>											
N(1)-N(2)-N(3)-N(2)-N(1)				v <sub>6</sub> (A <sub>1</sub> )	v <sub>6</sub> (B <sub>2</sub> )	v <sub>6</sub> (B <sub>1</sub> )	v <sub>3</sub> (A <sub>2</sub> )	v <sub>1</sub> (A <sub>1</sub> )	v <sub>2</sub> (A <sub>1</sub> )	v <sub>6</sub> (B <sub>2</sub> )	v <sub>1</sub> (B <sub>2</sub> )	v <sub>1</sub> (A <sub>1</sub> )	IR	RA	v <sub>1</sub> (B <sub>2</sub> )	IR	RA	v <sub>1</sub> (A <sub>1</sub> )	
14	14	14	14	14	193.1(0)	424.1(0)	436.3(0)	502.4(0)	678.1(0)	850.0(0)	1116.9(0)	2281.7(0)	2336.3(0)	872(0)	871(0)	2210(0)	2277(10)	2271(0)	2277(10)
14	14	15	14	14	191.8(1.3)	422.0(2.1)	436.0(2)	502.4(0)	677.5(7)	833.3(16.7)	1138.0(28.9)	2281.2(5)	2336.3(1)	858(14)	855(16)	2209.8	2270.8	2271(1)	2277(10)
15	14	14	14	14	190.8(2.2)	422.3(1.8)	434.7(1.5)	500.7(1.7)	674.4(3.7)	847.4(2.6)	1163.4(3.5)	2259.8(21.9)	2324.5(11.9)	870(2)	869(2)	2189.0(21)	2259.0(12)	2259(12)	2259(12)
14	15	14	14	14	192.6(4)	419.4(4.7)	430.4(5.8)	496.1(6.3)	670.6(7.5)	846.6(3.4)	1165.0(1.8)	2253.3(28.4)	2321.6(14.8)						
14	15	15	14	14	191.4(1.7)	417.4(6.8)	430.2(6.0)	496.1(6.3)	669.9(8.2)	829.9(20.1)	1136.0(30.8)	2252.9(28.8)	2321.5(14.9)						
15	14	15	14	14	189.6(3.5)	420.2(3.9)	434.5(1.8)	500.7(1.7)	673.8(4.3)	870.6(19.4)	1134.5(32.4)	2259.3(22.4)	2324.4(12.0)						
14	15	14	15	14	192.2(9)	415.6(8.5)	424.9(11.4)	489.0(13.4)	662.9(15.3)	843.3(6.8)	1163.2(3.7)	2240.1(41.5)	2291.5(44.8)						
15	15	14	14	14	190.4(2.7)	417.3(6.8)	428.8(7.4)	494.6(7.8)	667.1(11.0)	844.1(5.9)	1161.8(5.1)	2222.9(58.7)	2317.3(19.0)						
14	15	14	14	15	190.4(2.7)	417.9(6.2)	428.9(7.4)	494.1(8.3)	666.9(11.2)	844.1(6.0)	1161.5(5.3)	2243.4(38.3)	2297.7(38.6)						
15	14	14	14	15	188.6(4.5)	420.5(3.6)	433.1(3.1)	498.9(3.5)	670.6(7.5)	845.0(5.0)	1159.8(7.0)	2247.4(34.2)	2303.1(33.2)						
14	15	15	15	14	191.0(2.1)	413.4(10.7)	424.7(11.6)	489.0(13.4)	662.1(16.0)	826.4(23.6)	1134.1(32.8)	2239.7(41.9)	2291.5(44.8)						
15	15	15	14	14	189.2(3.9)	415.2(8.9)	428.6(7.6)	494.6(7.8)	666.5(11.6)	827.2(22.8)	1132.8(34.1)	2222.5(59.1)	2317.1(19.2)						
15	14	15	15	14	189.2(3.9)	415.8(8.3)	428.7(7.6)	494.1(8.3)	666.3(11.8)	827.2(22.9)	1132.5(34.4)	2242.9(38.8)	2297.6(38.7)						
15	14	15	14	15	187.4(5.7)	418.4(5.7)	432.9(3.3)	498.9(3.5)	670.2(8.0)	838.0(22.0)	1130.9(36.0)	2246.9(34.8)	2303.0(33.3)						
15	15	14	15	14	189.9(3.1)	413.7(10.4)	423.3(13.0)	487.2(15.2)	659.3(18.8)	840.7(9.3)	1159.9(7.0)	2217.3(64.3)	2279.7(56.6)						
15	15	14	14	15	188.2(4.9)	415.8(8.3)	427.3(9.0)	492.6(9.8)	663.3(14.8)	841.7(8.4)	1158.2(8.7)	2218.4(63.2)	2288.1(48.3)						
15	15	15	15	14	188.8(4.3)	411.6(12.5)	423.1(13.1)	487.2(15.2)	658.7(19.5)	823.8(26.2)	1130.8(36.1)	2216.9(64.8)	2279.6(56.7)						
15	15	15	14	15	187.0(6.1)	413.7(10.4)	427.1(9.2)	492.6(9.8)	662.8(15.3)	824.7(25.4)	1129.2(37.7)	2218.0(63.7)	2287.9(48.4)						
15	15	14	15	15	187.7(5.4)	411.9(12.2)	421.7(14.6)	485.4(17.0)	655.8(22.4)	838.4(11.7)	1156.6(10.3)	2205.0(76.6)	2257.4(78.9)						
15	15	15	15	15	186.5(6.5)	409.8(14.3)	421.5(14.7)	485.4(17.0)	655.2(22.9)	821.3(28.7)	1127.4(39.4)	2204.5(77.1)	2257.4(79.0)						

Table 4. Results from the Normal Coordinate Analysis<sup>a</sup> of N<sub>5</sub><sup>+</sup>

	approx mode description in point group C <sub>2v</sub>	frequency, cm <sup>-1</sup>		symmetry force constants <sup>b</sup> , CCSDT (B3LYP)				potential energy distribution <sup>a</sup> , %	
		obsd	CCSD(T)(B3LYP) calc	F <sub>11</sub>	F <sub>22</sub>	F <sub>33</sub>	F <sub>44</sub>	(CCSDT)	
A <sub>1</sub> v <sub>1</sub>	in phase terminal stretches	2270	2229 (2336)	F <sub>11</sub> 19.573(21.314)					93(1) + 6(2)
v <sub>2</sub>	sym central stretch	872	818 (850)	F <sub>22</sub> 0.702(0.843)	5.546(6.952)				62(2) + 23(3) + 13(4) + 2(1)
v <sub>3</sub>	central bending		644 (678)	F <sub>33</sub> 0.085(0.137)	1.377(1.535)	1.540(1.427)			39(3) + 33(2) + 23(4) + 5(1)
v <sub>4</sub>	in phase terminal bends	209	181 (193)	F <sub>44</sub> 0.167(0.171)	0.204(0.312)	0.120(0.108)	0.373(0.425)		64(4) + 37(3) - 1(2)
A <sub>2</sub> v <sub>5</sub>	torsion		475 (502)	F <sub>55</sub> 0.0266(0.0281)					100(5)
B <sub>1</sub> v <sub>6</sub>	torsion		405 (424)	F <sub>66</sub> 0.0236(0.0246)					100(6)
B <sub>2</sub> v <sub>7</sub>	out of phase term stretch	2210	2175 (2282)	F <sub>77</sub> 19.491(21.272)					96(7) + 4(8)
v <sub>8</sub>	asym central stretch	1088	1032 (1167)	F <sub>88</sub> 1.197(1.359)	4.780(5.927)				95(8) + 4(7)
v <sub>9</sub>	out of phase terminal bends		399 (436)	F <sub>99</sub> 0.200(0.195)	0.085(0.159)	0.358(0.423)			99(9) + 1(8)

(a) The following symmetry coordinates were used for [N<sub>1</sub>-N<sub>2</sub>-N<sub>3</sub>-N<sub>4</sub>-N<sub>5</sub>]<sup>+</sup>: S<sub>1</sub>=v(1-2)+v(1'-2'); S<sub>2</sub>=v(2-3)+v(2'-3); S<sub>3</sub>=δ(2-3-2'); S<sub>4</sub>=δ(1-2-3)+δ(1'-2'-3);

S<sub>5</sub>=τ(1-2-3-2')+τ(2-3-2'-1'); S<sub>6</sub>=τ(1-2-3-2')-τ(2-3-2'-1'); S<sub>7</sub>=v(1-2)-v(1'-2'); S<sub>8</sub>=δ(1-2-3)-δ(1'-2'-3); S<sub>9</sub>=δ(1-2-3)-δ(1'-2'-3). (b) The two most important internal force constants, estimated from the calculated symmetry force constants and the observed frequencies are f<sub>1-2</sub>=20.08 mdyn/Å and f<sub>2-3</sub>=6.59 mdyn/Å. Stretching constants in mdyn/Å, deformation constants in mdyn/Å/rad<sup>2</sup>, and stretch-bend interaction constants in mdyn/rad.